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R 090607Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0564  
INFO RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA  
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 2308  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2036

UNCLAS MASERU 000223

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [AMGT](#) [OTRA](#) [LT](#)  
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR JAMES CREIGHTON, GEORGE BICEGO

REF: PRETORIA 1856

- [1](#)1. Post welcomes and grants country clearance for James Creighton, Regional Director, and George Bicego, M&E Specialist, to travel to Lesotho for the period a/o May 16 to a/o May 17, [1](#)2006.
- [1](#)2. The purpose of the travel is to attend HIV/AIDS Task Force meeting.
- [1](#)3. Control Officer for your visit is Embassy HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Joan Atkinson, Tel: (266)-22-312666, Fax: (266)-22-310116; e-mail: atkinsonj@state.gov
- [1](#)4. There is no visa requirement to enter Lesotho for American passport holders, including diplomatic, official or tourist.
- [1](#)5. Maseru is a critical crime threat post. Armed banditry and petty crimes are common problems and visitors should exercise caution, particularly after dark. The Post Security Officer can provide more detailed information on current conditions and should be consulted upon arrival.
- [1](#)6. Post advises that travelers bring U.S. traveler's checks, though credit cards are acceptable at some restaurants and the two main hotels in town, the Lesotho Sun and the Maseru Sun. South African Rand may be used in Lesotho; local currency is the Maloti, which is at one-to-one equivalency with the South African Rand.
- [1](#)7. The Embassy Health Unit is staffed by a Registered Nurse and can offer guidance, first aid and evaluation of minor illnesses. The Health Unit stocks a very small supply of medications for acute illnesses. Local pharmacies generally are well-stocked but visitors are advised to bring sufficient supplies of their prescription medicines to cover the length of their stay.
- [1](#)8. A small local hospital is available in Maseru for treatment of minor injuries and other illnesses. However, in general, health services in all of Lesotho are considered inadequate. Health care facilities in the larger cities in nearby South Africa are of a level comparable to the U.S. If necessary, patients would be medically evacuated to either Bloemfontein (90 miles away) in the Republic of South Africa or to Pretoria (350 miles). The Regional Medical Office located in Pretoria provides support and assistance for all evacuations. All visitors should ensure that they have medical insurance that covers overseas hospitalizations and that they have private medical evacuation insurance if not covered by their sponsoring agency.
- [1](#)9. Lesotho has no malaria. Visitors should have their immunizations up to date and carry their cards with them. Yellow Fever is a standard requirement. Typhoid, Cholera, Rabies, Hepatitis A and B are recommended. If you're planning to

travel into the mountains, a Meningococal vaccine is recommended as a precaution against meningitis.

¶10. Each visitor must bring/forward fiscal data to cover costs of the visit. Each agency, organization, or visiting delegation will be charged for the actual costs attributed to their visit. These costs include, but are not limited to: American and LES staff overtime, field travel by Embassy employees, vehicle rentals, long distance telephone calls, equipment rentals, office supplies, representational events and all other costs that are directly attributable to the visit.

¶11. We look forward to your arrival.

PERRY